

ABSTRACT

This invention is an improved method and device for treating varicose veins **200** or the greater saphenous vein **202**. The method comprises the use of infrared laser radiation in the region of 1.2 to 1.8 μm in a manner from inside the vessel **200** or **202** such that the endothelial cells of the vessel wall **704** are damaged and collagen fibers in the vessel wall **704** are heated to the point where they permanently contract, the vessel **200** or **202** is occluded and ultimately resorbed. The device includes a laser **102** delivered via a fiber optic catheter **300** that may have frosted or diffusing fiber tips **308**. A motorized pull back device **104** is used, and a thermal sensor **600** may be used to help control the power required to maintain the proper treatment temperature.

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